

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 05310 211840Z

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ACTION CU-03

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FOR: CU/ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC EC (MENA, VICENTE)

SUBJECT: IV CANDIDATE VICENTE MENA

REF: QUITO 3983

1. VICENTE MENA PAREDES, DIRECTOR, ETHNOLOGY MUSEUM OF THE "CASE DE LA CULTURA" CAN BEGIN IV TRIP FIRST OR SECOND WEEK IN AUGUST.

2. IN ADDITION TO HIS BEING DIRECTOR OF ETNOLOGY MUSEUM, HE TEACHES A COURSE IN POPULAR ARTS AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY AND IS SECRETARY OF THE COMMITTEE ON REORGANIZATION OF THE MUSEUM OF THE "CASA DE LA DULTURA". THIS LATTER POSITION IS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE "CASA" AS THE CULTURAL ARM OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR, IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN PLANNING AND DIRECTING MUSEUMS THROUGHOUT ECUADOR. AT THE PRESENT TIME, THEY ARE ORGANIZING WITH HELP FROM UNESCO, A NATURAL SCIENCES MUSEUM AND TRAINING CENTER FOR ALL THE ANDEAN COUNTRIES. IT WILL BE LOCATED IN QUITO. AT 36 YEARS OF AGE, MENA IS CONSIDERED A LEADING FIGURE IN ETHNOLOGY AND POPULAR ARTS. HE STUDIED UNDER DR. CARVALLO-NETO, WAS IN MEXICO ON AN OAS SCHOLARSHIP, AND IS AUTHOR OF VARIOUS ARTICLES ON POPULAR ARTS.

3. BIO-DATA: BORN MAY 24, 1941, QUITO, ECUADOR. EDUCATED AT "INSTITUTO NORMAL CENTRAL" FOR BOYS IN GUATEMALA, (HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE). ATTENDED SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE,
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PAGE 02 QUITO 05310 211840Z

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY, QUITO FOR THREE YEARS, AND THE NATIONAL

INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY (INHA), IN MEXICO,
1963 ON AN OAS SCHOLARSHIP.

PRESENT POSITION: DIRECTOR: ETHNOLOGY MUSEUM, "CASA DE
LA CULTURA", QUITO, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY,
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.

SIGNIFICANT PAST POSITIONS: DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
POPULAR ART. PROFESSOR, SCIOLOGY SCHOOL, CENTRAL UNIVERSITY.

ORGANIZATIONS: INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS (PARIS);
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC AND ARTISTIC
WORKS, (ENGLAND); ECUADOREAN INSTITUTE OF FOLKLORE: ECUADOREAN
INDIAN INSTITUTE; ECUADOREAN INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY.

PUBLICATIONS: "CIENCIA, MAGIA Y POSEIA" (SCIENCE, MAGIC AND
POETRY), 1971; "FOLKLORE ECUATORIANO" (ECUADOREAN FOLKLORE),
UNDER COMPLETION; "FOLKLORE Y ARTESANIA", HANDBOOK ON
ECUADOR: HUMAN RELATIONS AREA FILES: YALE UNIVERSITY
PRESS (BEING EDITED).

TRAVEL: PANAMA-LECTURER IN A SEMINAR -1968, LIMA TO
ATTEND AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE-1970, MEXICO-OAS
SCHOLARSHIP.

4. MENA HAS A SLIGHT KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH. WILL NEED
INTERPRETER.

5. PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS: MR. VICENTE MENA IS INTER-
ESTED IN SEEING FOUR MAJOR TYPES OF MUSEUMS: A) ART
MUSEUMS, PARTICULARLY MODERN ART; B) SCIENCE AND TECH-
NOLOGY MUSEUMS; C) HISTORICAL MUSEUMS AND HOUSES; AND
D) SPECIAL INTEREST MUSEUMS, PARTICULARLY ARMS, NAVAL,
AERONAUTIC AND SPACE. WITHIN ALL THESE FIELDS, THE FOCUS
SHOULD BE ON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, ORGANIZATION AND AD-
MINISTRATION AND ARCHIVAL SYSTEMS.

6. SPECIFICALLY MR. MENA WOULD LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR
THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION (SPACE, ART AND SCIENCE BUILDING),
AND THE HIRSHHORN MUSEUM; NEW YORK FOR THE MUSEUM OF
MODERN ART, METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM,
OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN,
MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN, MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS, AND MUSEUM OF EARLY AME-
RICAN FOLK ARTS, NEW YORK; BOSTON FOR THE PEABODY MUSEUM
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PAGE 03 QUITO 05310 211840Z

AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CHILDREN'S MUSEUM AND PERHAPS THE
AQUARIUM; IN NEW HAVEN THE YALE COLLECTION OF MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS; AND AT WEST POINT FOR THE ARMY MUSEUM,
NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA FOR WASHINGTON MEMORIAL MUSEUM,
AT MISSOULA, MONTANA FOR MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY PLANETARIUM,
AT SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO FOR MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK
ART.

7. MENA WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE SAN FRANCISCO.

8. POST WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SUGGEST HIS SEEING AN OUTDOOR MUSEUM SUCH AS MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT WHALING VILLAGE, IN CONNECTION WITH TRIP TO NEW HAVEN, PLYMOTH PLANTATION, BOSTON AREA, OR GETTYSBURG BATTLEGROUND OR COLONIAL WILLIAMS-BURG.

9. IF THERE ARE ANY BICENTENNIAL EVENTS DURING HIS VISIT, THEY MIGHT ALSO BE INCORPORATED INTO HIS SCHEDULE.

10. MENA, VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE INTER-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE, WOULD LIKE TO LECTURE ON ECUADOREAN POPULAR ARTS IF POSSIBLE, TO FINA A SPANISH SPEAKING AUDIENCE OR SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION FACILITIES. HEIS 30 MINUTE LECTURES ACCOMPANIED BY SLIDES ARE ON: "FOLK ART OF ECUADOR", T"THE ART OF POTTERY MAKING IN PRE COLOMBIAN TIMES". PERHAPS A LECUTURE COULD BE ARRANGED AT THE HISPANIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA ON "ECUADOREAN CELEBRATIONS AND SOCIAL FOLKLORE".

1. OBVIOUSLY THIS IS A VERY FULL PROGRAM AND WILL HAVE TO BE CULLED OVER WITH THE PROGRAMMING AGENCY IN WASHINTON TO GET THE BEST PROGRAM IN A 30-DAY TRIP. GOOD LUCK*

DECONTRON UPON RECEIPT.
BREWSTER

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